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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8461
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 1263
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0619
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0102

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 000686

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/24/2018

TAGS: PREL PHUM HO

SUBJECT: HONDURAS DEMARCHED ON SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND
DEMOCRACY IN CUBA

REF: SECSTATE 71974

Classified By: ADCM Andrea Brouillette-Rodriguez, Reasons 1.4
(b & d)

(C) On July 22, PolOff delivered reftel demarche to Lilian Juarez Duron, acting Director for Bilateral Affairs at the MFA. PolOff emphasized the importance of showing solidarity with the EU's new policy approach towards Cuba regardless of other sensitive bilateral issues. Juarez was in agreement that human rights and democracy are common universal interests which should be supported and was open to suggesting public affairs initiatives on this theme to the MFA. Juarez also assured she would discuss the issue with local and regional contacts as well. Post will report any future initiatives undertaken by the MFA related to human rights and democracy in Cuba. Comment: Although this low level official who was serving as Acting Director for Bilateral Affairs professed her belief that Honduras should be amenable to participating in public affairs initiatives on Human Rights in Cuba, and offered to speak to her contacts about it, we doubt this will get anywhere in the current Administration. President Zelaya is leaning further and further left as he loses allies in his own Liberal Party, and we do not believe he would dare to offend Cuba at this point in time. End comment.

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